

and empower taxpayers. I urge my colleagues to join me to increase awareness of the earned-income tax credit.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this is the second week of the 112th Congress. I welcome back the Presiding Officer. I have spent many a Monday afternoon presiding over this Chamber as a new Member in my first 2 years. While they are not here, I welcome my new colleagues in the Senate and, obviously, our new colleagues in the House.

We still have an enormous number of challenges facing us as a country, and I look forward to working with Members in both bodies to make sure we meet these challenges in a bipartisan way.

Last year, I took up the banner that had actually been started by the Presiding Officer's colleague who preceded him in this Chamber, and that was the effort of honoring, on a regular basis, exemplary Federal employees right here on the Senate floor. It is a tradition that was begun by Senator Ted Kaufman.

I want to start this new 112th Congress with what will be a weekly occurrence where I will come forward and recognize Federal employees who play an extraordinarily important role in our country. I have been blessed to have had a great number of those employees in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as the occupant of the Chair has been in Delaware.

Today, I thought I would actually rise on no specific employee but to honor congressional staff on Capitol Hill and in the many congressional districts across the country. There are nearly 6,000 Federal employees in the Senate, and nearly 10,000 serve in the House of Representatives. I am referring to the individuals who sort the mail, the clerks who sit before you in the presiding chair, the folks who manage the Chamber day in and day out, and the Capitol Police, who do an incredibly important job of making sure we are able to work in a safe environment. I am also referring to those folks who work directly for us as Members of Congress. They work their hearts out for us. Beatriz is here with me today. They work long hours and get little attention. Clearly, they impact the lives of millions of Americans every day.

I know a little about this firsthand because I started my career in politics as a staff member for then-Congress-

man Chris Dodd. I did manage to get him lost a number of times when I drove him around his district in eastern Connecticut. That experience taught me how dedicated the congressional staff is and that they are truly public servants and are instrumental to the democratic process that takes place on the floor of the Senate and on the floor of the House.

Congressional staff help Members of Congress draft and analyze legislation. They respond to literally thousands of letters, phone calls, and e-mails on a regular basis. More often than not, they are out in the district or back at home when we are in Washington.

I know my State staff has helped Virginians with securing adoptions, reuniting families through our immigration casework, and simply helping countless Virginia families navigate the complex bureaucracy that we know as the Federal Government.

Congressional staff also help us plan events that bring us closer to those we represent so we can continue to hear their views or complaints as we try to communicate our agenda.

I want to take a special moment—and we did this as a body last week—to pay tribute to those who were lost in the horrible shooting in Tucson. It is important to remember as we pray for the recovery of Congresswoman GIFFORDS that we recall as well a member of her staff, Gabe Zimmerman, who was Congresswoman GIFFORDS' director of community outreach. Gabe was one of the victims of that mass shooting. He was simply doing his job organizing "Congress On Your Corner" for the Congresswoman to make sure the folks who hired her, the people of Arizona, had a chance to see her firsthand and express their views.

I want to make sure we also recognize and continue to keep in our prayers Pamela Simon and Ronald Barber who were injured on that day and are in the process of making their recovery.

As we keep in mind that tragedy, I think it is important that we recall not only are those of us who are directly hired sometimes put in harm's way by this job, but there are literally thousands of particularly young people who work for us day in and day out without a lot of recognition who are public servants as well. As we saw with the tragedy a month or so ago in Tucson, they sometimes give the greatest devotion of service as well.

I hope my colleagues will join me over the coming week or two and say a special thanks to all of those who work long and hard for us on our staffs, including the pages who keep the order; the reporters who make sure, even when we are a little bit too long-winded, that they take down virtually every word; and those special folks on the dais who have been known at times to keep new Members awake during particularly long-winded speeches by Members.

I thank our congressional staff. We will be back on a regular basis to cele-

brate the very good work of Federal employees in various walks of life. I can't think of a better way to restart this tradition than this week honoring those great staff members who serve us in the Senate and in the House.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. MANCHIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are in morning business; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

#### REMEMBERING SUZANNE WAUGHTEL-HOPPER

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the heroic life of Suzanne Waughtel-Hopper, a deputy sheriff of Clark County, OH, and a beloved mother, wife, daughter, sister, and friend who was killed in the line of duty on the morning of January 1, 2011.

On that fateful day, Deputy Hopper, who went 6 years without ever missing a work day, volunteered to work overtime where she was scheduled to start her shift at 3 a.m. But by 2:34 a.m. she had already started her patrol, and by 2:58 a.m. she had already made an arrest by taking a drunk driver off the street. Throughout the morning, she fielded calls of theft and criminal activity, and by 11:30 a.m. she answered her last call, a report of a dispute at a local campground. While taking forensic evidence photographs, she was shot and killed and German Township officer Jeremy Blum was injured. As Deputy Hopper did each day of her career, she answered her call to duty, the call to uphold the sacred oath she took to protect her community.

In the days since her tragic loss, family and friends have recounted her commitment to the core values of the Clark County Sheriff's Office—integrity, duty, courage, and honor. During the celebration of her life on January 7, 2011, at First Christian Church in Springfield, OH, thousands of people from Clark County and across the State and the Nation remembered her acts of courage on the job, her kindness and empathy to the community, and her love and affection for her family. Flag waving mourners gave thanks and prayers to a public servant who kept their streets and neighborhoods safe for the last 12 years.

School children will remember her as a role model and DARE instructor. Special Olympians will remember her encouragement and support, while several charities will remember her generosity and selflessness. Families who she helped in the line of duty will remember the clothing and food she provided them while she was off duty.